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WINTHROP, IOWA

MY WINTER WOODLAND NEIGHBORS

By CARL FRITZ HENNING

"When winter winds are piercing chill,
And through the white-thorn blows the gale,
With solemn feet I tread the hill
That overlooks the lonely vale."

—Longfellow.

Nestling in the heart of Iowa, peacefully slumbering in a beautiful valley, are the Ledges, the Ozarks of Iowa. Nature lovers who have visited this wild-life refuge near Boone are enthusiastic in their praise as they view the rugged sandstone cliffs that rise in majestic grandeur high above a spring-fed, mountain-like stream that playfully meanders through the valley and flows onward until, finally, its pure waters mingle with the Des Moines, the "river of the Monks." Our Creator used a caressing hand in molding this beautiful valley. He brought into being a wilderness, alluring, mysterious, and filled with a witchery that lays the hand of enchantment upon you, from the moment you enter the valley until you have explored the remotest limits of this scenic piece of woodland.

In this bit of "God's Country" I had the rare good fortune, during the winter of 1921-1922, to live the life of a hermit,—with my friends the birds and other dwellers of the wildwood for my nearest neighbors,—to observe autumn, with its glory of golden oaks mysteriously blending into the purple hues of winter, with blustering storms of rain and snow; and finally, to witness the leisurely awakening of spring . . . fresh, triumphant, and inspiring.

Living alone in the woods is full of surprises. I enjoyed the wild solitude . . . Around me were hills, grand old trees, rugged sandstone cliffs, and friendly dwellers of the forest. We understood one another and lived our lives in peace and harmony. The sunsets were glorious. When twilight came—

"Melting heaven with earth,
Leaving on craggy hills and running streams
A softness like the atmosphere of dreams"—

from my window I watched the paling of the evening twilight, till a mild ray from a little star met my eye; it was only a tiny ray of starlight, but it carried a message that brought peace to my soul.

I lived the "simple life." In this little hut of mine, the alluring latch-string always hung out—all were welcome, but few came my way. Only on rare occasions a passerby would tarry for a moment to exchange greetings. My real neighbors and visitors were the denizens of fields and woods. Rarely a day passed without some friendly squirrel coming to my door or scampering playfully over the roof of my humble home.

Among the pleasant memories of those golden days are the friendly relations that existed between a skunk, or "wood-pussy" as Dallas Lore Sharp would say, and myself. With the first snow of winter my new friend took up his abode under the floor of my hut. He had a habit of coming and going at all hours of the night, but I never argued the matter with him, and we had no quarrels. In a meadow near the creek lived a family of woodchucks. An old 'chuck is the "Sage" of the meadow and the Rip Van Winkle of the woods; like myself, he has reduced the problems of life to the simplest form.

Throughout the long winter, there was never a day, from early morn until late at night, that my feathered friends did not greet me. No matter to them whether the days were full of warmth and sunshine, or leaden skies and wintry blasts were hurling sleet and snow through the valley—my bird friends were always cheerful.

My earliest callers were the chickadees and nuthatches. They came

with the dawn of day. Cardinals, Tufted Titmice, Slate-colored Juncos, and members of the woodpecker and sparrow families daily visited the feeding-tray at my window, and when the window was open, as often happened, the gay little Chickadees and lively White-breasted Nuthatch with his tiny trumpet frequently made social calls and helped themselves to nutmeats from my table. Thoreau said that the nuthatch and chickadee are more inspiring society than statesmen and philosophers. At dusk the Screech Owls, fluffy little fellows that are valuable as destroyers of field mice, would make an evening call, while their larger kith and kin, the Barred and Great Horned Owls, often kept up their amusing twilight talks far into the night.

Birds were not my only visitors. A lone wolf often came from the prairie to get a drink at the creek, and Reynard, sly old fox that he is, serenely walked around my hut, leaving his clear-cut trail in the snow.

Little white-footed mice, with large, pleading eyes and soft brown coats, never faltered when paying me a visit but came in boldly to warm their white feet by my wood-fire. Sometimes these pretty "deer" mice stayed all night, playing around the room and among my books, helping themselves to whatever they could find to eat. One day they came in with several of their neighbor friends and remained over the week-end—why not, they were my guests and worthy company! Voles and shrews, closely related to the wood mice, never took advantage of my open house and hospitality but politely left their autograph trails upon the snow around my home.

Trails in the snow often revealed the friendly visit of a nocturnal raccoon. Other tell-tale tracks in the snow made known the presence of mink and weasel. My queerest-acting neighbor was the opossum—gentle to be sure, but the clown of the woods. The little cottontails made a network of paths around my home; it is natural for these innocent children of the woods to be neighborly to man.

Many a winter day I followed the long, long trail made by the tireless feet of the red fox. Many surprises awaited me along these trails, where "Nature's heart beats strong among the hills." Many wildwood friends and visitors from the northland greeted me by the wayside. I found health, happiness and contentment in ranging the fields and leafless woods—"a pocketful of sunshine is better far than gold."

Some of the winter visitors from the land of the midnight sun are irregular in their habits; their coming perhaps depends more on their food supply than the weather. The Snowy Owl is often a wanderer. When this silent hunter from the polar region visits us in our own woods, it is worth a long tramp through deep snow to meet him face to face and look into his large, fearless, yellow eyes.

There are not many birds from the northland that live more interesting lives than the crossbills, longspurs, siskins, finches and snowflakes. All lead nomadic lives—here today, gone tomorrow. Bands of pretty Snow Buntings, rising and falling with the drifting snow, are the very soul of an Iowa snowstorm. When rambling over fields



MR. HENNING.

author of this article, is a thorough woodsman and an experienced ornithologist. He is Custodian of the Leiges State Park, about which he writes so entertainingly. This likeness is reproduced by courtesy of 'Better Homes and Gardens.'

through the deep snow, you may see a whole flock of these birds on the ground for a moment, and then suddenly, with sweet, twinkling notes, they go whirling away and vanish in a cloud of wind-blown snow. Thoreau called them "the Spirits of the Snow." Prairie Horned Larks and Snow Buntings often flock together, and it is not unusual to find a Lapland Longspur in their company.

Bohemian and Cedar Waxwings, roaming over the land, are the gypsies among the birds. Goldfinches, dressed in Quaker suits for winter



THE DES MOINES RIVER NEAR ENTRANCE TO LEDGES STATE PARK
Photographed by Caughey.

wear, are now in harmony with the dried weeds of the fields, where the birds search for wind-blown seeds. Often you will see a network of tracks in the snow beneath weed-stalks and shrubs where Song Sparrows, Tree Sparrows, Red-poll Linnetts, White-throats and Snow-flakes have been feeding.

A band of American Magpies, beautiful birds of the western plains and strangers in central Iowa, remained in the Ledges all winter.

The Winter Wren is the smallest visitor from the far north. Shy and retiring, he readily eludes detection as he darts in and out among the roots and rocks along the stream—a regular "will-o-the-wisp," with a spirit as wild and glorious as a snowstorm.

No winter landscape is complete without a band of Crows, hawks and Blue Jays appearing upon the scene. Blue Jays have few real friends, and the Crow has even fewer; yet I admire them both. During my sojourn in the woods, I learned much from the saucy jay and more from the wise old Crow. There is inspiration in the flight of the Red-tailed Hawk—it is the very poetry of motion as he soars among the clouds, screaming in the wild joy of freedom, high over the hills.

A few years ago, it was not unusual to track Ruffed Grouse through the snow in the Ledges, and on the west side of the Des Moines River in the Bear Creek region. It seems only yesterday that I heard the mysterious grouse drum throb through the bursting woods of spring. Dull seem the woods without this noble game bird—"with a soul born of the mysterious and somber depths of a great forest solitude"—now vanished, like the Indian, from our woods forever.

Among the native game birds only our beloved Bob-white remains to cheer us. There are few prettier sights than a family of old Quail with their young ranging the woodland meadow. The Quail's clear, whistled note—"Bob-white . . . Bob-Bob, Bob-white"—coming from the old rail fence bordering the woods, is part of the legacies of childhood's memories. Let us devotedly protect the few remaining coveys that exalt our Iowa fields and woods—to the end that Bob-white's wild, inspiring call will never be stilled but will ring out clear and strong through the ages eternally.

"Eseniwig Lodge," Ledges State Park,
Boone, Iowa, November 18, 1932.

THE IOWA RED-TAILED HAWKS

By PHILIP A. DU MONT

Dr. B. H. Bailey, in his "Raptorial Birds of Iowa" (1918), speaks of Iowa as the "melting pot" for the several varieties of the Red-tailed Hawk. In this list he classes the Eastern Red-tail as a rather uncommon resident in eastern Iowa and cites a typical example in the Iowa University Museum that was taken at Sioux City, August 2, 1884, showing that its occurrence as a breeding bird is actually state-wide. Of the Western Red-tail, Bailey considered it not uncommon anywhere in the state, and on the distributional map he showed it as occurring only in the southern half of the state, four of the six records being from the southeast. The Krider's Hawk was described from a specimen taken in Winnebago County, Iowa, in September, 1872. Bailey did not consider this variety as common, but mentioned that specimens are occasionally collected in the state. The Harlan's Hawk was stated to be not common but occasionally taken, and had been found breeding.

Bailey appears to agree, therefore, with Dr. R. M. Anderson who, in 1907, recorded these four varieties for Iowa but in somewhat greater numbers. Dr. Thomas S. Roberts, in his recent "Birds of Minnesota" (1932), considers the Eastern Red-tail as the form occurring throughout that state; the Western Red-tail, in normal plumage, as an accidental straggler; the Krider's Hawk as most frequent in the south-central and western parts of the state; and the Harlan's Hawk as a migrant to be found anywhere in the state, but most frequent on the western prairie.

Typical examples of the Eastern Red-tail are represented in most of the collections throughout Iowa, but this form appears to be most numerous in the eastern and southeastern portions and less abundant in the northwest. The adult is distinguished by the rufous tail, generally with a sub-terminal black band, and by the well-marked band of black or brown longitudinal streaks on the abdomen. The Western Red-tail has this band even more pronounced and with an admixture of rusty mottling between the streaks. Major Allan Brooks, in Roberts' "Birds of Minnesota" is quoted on the diagnostic characters of the Western Red-tail as follows: "The barring of the tail in adult is a *very* inconstant character; it is another of those cases of oft-quoted distinctions that should have been corrected. *Calurus* can always be distinguished in the adult by the *barring of the tibial plumes*." Dr. Oberholser agrees with Major Brooks that the barring of the tail is of no value in distinguishing between the subspecies, and he regards the barring on the tibial plumes, likewise, as of no consequence. The only character for distinguishing *calurus* from *borealis*, other than the rusty mottling in the abdominal band (the color of the head, back, and tail being indistinguishable in the two), is the more or less buffy wash to the entire underparts of *calurus*. The Iowa University Museum collection contains three typical Western Red-tails taken in Johnson County, Iowa, during October and November, thus indicating that this variety may only be considered as an uncommon migrant from the west.

The characteristic dark phase of the Western Red-tail, a uniformly dark brown bird with well-marked, banded tail has been taken in various parts of the state. Mr. Walter Rosene has one in his collection taken in Boone County. One of the two birds labelled "Harlan's Hawk" in the collection of the State Historical Museum at Des Moines, with a heavily-banded, red tail, is of this variety. There is a female in the Allert collection, taken October 12, 1927, at Giard, Iowa. The identification of the latter was confirmed by Dr. Oberholser. It might be well in passing to mention that the Western Red-tail is not recog-

nized by Peters in his "Birds of the World" (1931), it being considered a synonym of the Eastern Red-tail. And at the same time the Harlan's Hawk is considered a full species and distinct from the Red-tail.

When comparing the descriptions from several sources they appear to agree that the Krider's Hawk is similar to the Eastern Red-tail, but differs from it in having much more white in the plumage, especially on the head, and the tail being pale rufous or having a semblance of white. The extreme examples of fully adult *krideri* have nearly immaculate under-parts, with the chestnut color on the sides of the throat reduced, and lacking the abdominal band and markings on the tibial plumes. In the very lightest specimens of Krider's Hawk the secondaries and the sixth to the tenth primary inclusive are practically white, crossed by numerous narrow dark brown bars. The contrast of the dark barring on the light secondaries appears to be one of the most distinct marks of *krideri*. In the eastern bird, and in the light phase of the Harlan's Hawk, the inner primaries and secondaries are dull grayish brown with wide dark brown cross-bars. In the lighter examples of the first-year Krider's Hawk there is but a slight difference from eastern birds of the same age. Besides the lighter secondaries mentioned above, the head is whiter, the hind neck lacks the rufous cast of *borcalis*, and the tail is a lighter gray with greater contrast to the brown cross-bars. In both varieties the tibial plumes are barred, and the abdominal band is usually present but less pronounced in *krideri*. However, in a series of 14 Krider's Hawks in the Iowa University Museum, nearly perfect intergradation with the Eastern Red-tail is shown. There are eight specimens of *krideri* in the Dwight Collection, in the American Museum of Natural History, New York City. These eight birds were taken in April, October, November, and December, by William G. Savage, at Hillsboro, Henry County, Iowa. The type specimen, which was secured by John Krider, in Winnebago County, Iowa, September, 1872, is now in the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences.

In the Coe College collection there is a totally albinistic Red-tail labelled Krider's Hawk. If we were to explain the Krider's Hawk on the basis of albinism, then what must we call a Johnson County specimen in the Iowa University Museum which is partially and irregularly albinistic, with a bright red tail and a dark head? It seems more probable that the Krider's Hawk represents a light phase such as we find in the Swainson's and the Rough-legged Hawks.

In making sight identifications of the Harlan's Hawk, there is always a possibility of confusing this bird with the Swainson's and the Rough-legged Hawks in the dark phase. I have already referred to the dark phase of the Western Red-tail, which is a plumage most easily confused with the Harlan's Hawk. Mr. Norman E. Wood, Curator Emeritus of the Museum of Zoology, at Ann Arbor, Michigan, has most ably discussed (Wilson Bulletin, XLIV, 1932, pp. 78-87) the characters of the Harlan's Hawk based upon a study of 137 specimens in the Ann Arbor Museum, most of them from North Dakota and Arkansas. Mr. Wood gives these as the most distinguishing factors: "*Harlani* has white spots above and below, often from bill to feet In melanistic Red-tails, the adult birds have the red (more or less) barred tail, while adult Harlan's Hawks have the tail streaked and spotted, never red barred. Immature Harlan's Hawks with barred tails have usually the same black and white spotted plumage, in strong contrast to the brownish black of the immature Red-tails. Ridgway (Ornithology of Illinois, 1889, pp. 469-471) gives the best description of Harlan's Hawk I have found, both light and dark phases. Of the tails of immature birds he says, 'The black bars are wider and decidedly zigzag and oblique.' " And in a footnote Mr. Wood adds, "Ridgway

says, 'Plumage of flanks, tibia, and crissum remarkably lengthened and lax, the latter reaching within two inches of the tip of tail, and the tibial plumes reaching to the base of the toes.' I find these characters very constant in most of our specimens." He further calls attention to the blackish axillars of *harlani* as contrasted to the brown ones of the Western Red-tail.

Typical examples of Harlan's Hawk taken in Iowa are to be found in five collections. A male taken November 8, 1896, by William G. Savage, at Hillsboro, Iowa, is now in the Dwight collection. Mr. D. J. Bullock, of Des Moines, has a specimen taken near Clive, Polk County, during October, 1930. There are five examples in the Coe College collection, including three adults and two in the first or second-year plumage. A first-year male Harlan's Hawk is in the collection of the State Historical Museum, Des Moines. In the Iowa University Museum there is one typical female, taken at Iowa City in November; another with the black barred axillars, long crissum and tibial plumes, but with no white bases to the feathers on the head, neck, or back. In fact, the chest is a rich chestnut brown. The tail is gray, crossed by numerous broken brown bars bordered by rufous. A third specimen, having the brown cross-bars of the four central feathers of the tail broken up into mottling, has light under-parts, and considerable white on the head. It was recently identified by Dr. Oberholser as the Harlan's Hawk in the light phase. Certain specimens of Harlan's Hawk, including the large series at Ann Arbor, appear to be distinctly different from the Red-tailed Hawk, and if it were not for some of the intermediate specimens it would seem that it should be accorded specific rank.

Typical examples of these four forms may, under very favorable conditions, be identified in the field, but intermediate or juvenal specimens are difficult to determine satisfactorily even with the specimen in the hand. Any brightly red-tailed bird seen in the field in Iowa is generally recorded as the Eastern Red-tail. If it is a specimen in the hand, it may frequently prove to be this bird, or occasionally to be the Western Red-tail, with buffy under-parts and the abdominal band more rusty and mottled than in the eastern bird. Harlan's Hawk may be distinguished from the dark brown phase of the Western Red-tail by the spotted black and white plumage, spotting under the wings, and the gray tail mottled with black and rufous. Extremely light Red-tails with entirely white, unmarked under-parts may be identified as Krider's Hawk.

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COUNTY LISTS OF IOWA BIRDS

Numerous Iowa county bird lists have been published in the last half century. Most of these have been quite fully annotated and have proved very useful to bird students working in the localities covered by the respective lists. Quite a number of the earlier lists were published in mediums of rather limited circulation and are now practically inaccessible.

The following list has been prepared in the belief that our Iowa readers will find it useful for reference purposes. Although many counties have had no published catalogs, the list of one county will cover quite accurately the bird life of many neighboring ones, so that a considerable portion of the state has been represented. Of course, the early lists are now out of date in some respects, but the information they contain will always be valuable. Completeness for this list is not claimed, for the compiler has not had access to many of the

ornithological journals which flourished in the prolific years of the eighties and nineties. The accessibility of some of the titles named below will perhaps be questioned, but most of them are available in at least the larger libraries of the state. Some of the papers named do not give a list for the entire year. A few are summer lists; but, it is believed, all that are included are important in that they give a representative list for a given period. Dr. T. C. Stephens, who has kindly checked the list, has added several titles from his bibliography.

ALLAMAKEE, WINNESHIEK. Bartsch, Paul. "Summer Birds of the Oneota Valley (June, July, 1895)"; Iowa Ornithologist, III, 1897, pp. 51-61. A list of 98 species found in Allamakee County, and 86 species found in Winneshiek County; an important list for northeastern Iowa.

BOONE. Henning, Carl Fritz. "Notes on the Birds of Boone County, Iowa"; Western Ornithologist, V, 1900, pp. 15-19, 36-39, 54-57. A valuable list cut short by the suspension of publication of the magazine after three issues had been printed; the list, as far as published, contains 25 species. "Bird-life in the Ledges"; Ledges State Park Booklet, 1928, pp. 21-26. A list of 200 species (not annotated) accompanies the article.

BUCHANAN. Pierce, Fred J. "Buchanan County, Iowa, Birds"; Oologist, XXXVIII, 1921, pp. 4-7. A list of 98 species seen in 1919, 1920. "Birds of Buchanan County, Iowa"; Wils. Bull., XLII, 1930, pp. 253-285. A list of 215 species.

BUENA VISTA. Crone, John V. "Summer Residents of Buena Vista County, Iowa"; Oologist, VII, 1890, pp. 45-47. A list of 52 species.

CASS. Pellett, Frank C. "Birds that Nest at Tamakoche"; Bird-Lore, XV, 1913, pp. 305-307. A list of 53 species.

CLAY. Gabrielson, Ira N. "Breeding Birds of a Clay County, Iowa, Farm"; Wils. Bull., XXVI, 1914, pp. 69-81. A list of 50 species.

CLAY, O'BRIEN. Gabrielson, Ira N. "A List of Birds Observed in Clay and O'Brien Counties, Iowa"; Proc. Ia. Acad. Sci. XXIV, 1917, pp. 259-272. A list of 136 species.

CLAY, PALO ALTO. Tinker, A. D. "Notes on the Ornithology of Clay and Palo Alto Counties, Iowa"; Auk, XXXI, 1914, pp. 70-81. A list of 86 species based on material secured on a University of Michigan expedition in 1907.

DECATUR, MAHASKA. Trippe, T. Martin. "Notes on the Birds of Southern Iowa"; Proc. Boston Soc. Nat. Hist., XV, 1873, pp. 229-242. A list of 162 species for Decatur and Mahaska Counties.

FLOYD. Fenton, Carroll Lane. "Preliminary List of the Birds of Floyd County, Iowa"; Wils. Bull., XXVIII, 1916, pp. 130-138. A list of 90 species, which was reviewed critically by Gabrielson, *ibid.*, 1917, pp. 97-100. "The Birds of Floyd County, Iowa"; Am. Midland Naturalist, 1923-'24, reprint paging, 1-61. There are 230 species listed. A very full report, but its value is impaired by the inclusion of numerous erroneous and doubtful records. The folly of giving undue credence to the reports of amateur observers is clearly demonstrated. The Dickcissel is credited with "arriving as early as March 17, but ordinarily not before March 25"; a nesting of the Mountain Bluebird in Charles City is described; the Phoebe is mentioned as being an occasional winter resident. Erroneous data of this sort place a stamp of unreliability upon the whole paper.

FRANKLIN. Shoemaker, Frank H. "A Partial List of the Birds of Franklin County, Iowa"; published by the author, at Hampton, Iowa, 1896. A list of 150 species.

HANCOCK, WINNEBAGO. Anderson, Rudolph M. "A List of the Birds of Winnebago and Hancock Counties, Iowa"; published by the author, at Forest City, Iowa, 1897, pp. 1-19. A list of 216 species.

KEOKUK. Nauman, E. D. "An Iowa Bird Census"; Wils. Bull., XXXVIII, 1926, pp. 83-91. A census of nesting birds, covering nine years, listing 46 species.

MARSHALL. Gabrielson, Ira N. "A List of the Birds Found in Marshall County, Iowa"; Proc. Ia. Acad. Sci., XXV, 1918, pp. 123-153. "The Birds of Marshall County, Iowa"; *ibid.*, XXVI, 1919, pp. 47-75. This list appeared in two parts, which contained a total of 201 species.

POLK. Fagen, Lester P. "The Summer Resident Birds of Polk County, Iowa"; Proc. Ia. Acad. Sci., XVI, 1909, pp. 197-215. A list of 101 species. DuMont, Philip A. "Birds of Polk County, Iowa"; published by Des Moines Audubon Society, Oct., 1931, pp. 1-72. A list of 289 species; the most recent county list, very fully annotated, and an important contribution to Iowa ornithology.

POWESHIEK. Kelsey, Carl. "Birds of Poweshiek County, Iowa"; Ornithologist and Oologist, XVI, 1891, pp. 131-134. A list of some 200 species.

SAC. Spurrell, J. A. "Annotated List of the Water Birds, Game Birds and Birds of Prey of Sac County, Iowa"; Wils. Bull., XXIX, 1917, pp. 141-160. "An Annotated List of the Land Birds of Sac County, Iowa"; (Part 1) *ibid.*, XXXI, 1919, pp. 117-126; (Part 2), *ibid.*, XXXIII, 1921, pp. 123-132. This list appeared in three sections, which contained a total of 232 species.

SCOTT. Wilson, Burtis H. "The Birds of Scott County, Iowa"; Wils. Bull., XVIII, 1906, pp. 1-11. A list of 166 species.

STORY. Cole, John L. "Story County, Iowa, Birds"; Oologist, XXXVII, 1920, pp. 11-13. Paulson, Martin C. "List of Breeding Birds in Story County, Iowa"; Oologist, XXXIX, 1922, p. 20.

WAPELLO. Spiker, Chas. J. "Birds of Wapello County, Iowa"; Proc. Ia. Acad. Sci., XXXI, 1924, pp. 419-426. A list of 142 species.

WOODBURY. Bennett, Walter W. "Birds of Sioux City, Iowa"; a small leaflet published by Sioux City Bird Club, 1931, pp. 1-18. A list of 292 species, with very brief annotations, found by various observers within a 60-mile circle surrounding Sioux City. The list was prepared for use as a pocket check-list. A recent reviewer has questioned the records of the Passenger Pigeon and Glossy Ibis, and has suggested other discrepancies in the list. There have been quite a number of papers from the Sioux City region which have contained lists of warblers or of other birds, but space limitations prevent detailed mention here. A series of six important papers on the winter bird life of northwestern Iowa, with Sioux City as a focal point, have appeared in the 'Proceedings of the Iowa Academy of Science' for 1917, 1918, 1920, 1926, 1930 and 1931. Four of the papers are by Dr. T. C. Stephens, one is by Chas. J. Spiker, and the other is by Wm. Youngworth.

"A Preliminary Annotated Catalogue of the Birds of Iowa," by Charles Rollin Keyes and H. S. Williams (Proc. Davenport Acad. Nat. Sci., V, 1888, pp. 113-161, reprint pp. 1-49), contains a list of 262 species, most of which were observed in the vicinities of Charles City, Des Moines, and Iowa City.

County lists from the following Iowa counties were furnished Anderson for his "Birds of Iowa" (1907): Black Hawk, Boone, Cass, Delaware, Des Moines, Franklin, Jackson, Johnson, Kossuth, Lee, Linn, Mills, Polk, Pottawattamie, Poweshiek, Scott, Sioux, Van Buren, Warren, Wayne, Webster, Winnebago, Winneshiek, and Woodbury. These were not printed in their original form, but the county references are given under the respective species in the book.

The above compilation constitutes, in the judgment of the compiler, the more important Iowa county catalogs. My card bibliography contains many references to Iowa articles with brief lists of birds, but

most of these have been excluded because they did not seem to be sufficiently representative to deserve classification as "county" lists.
—F. J. P.

Mrs. Oscar P. Allert, wife of our Treasurer, died at her home at Giard, Iowa, January 12, 1933. Mrs. Allert shared her husband's interest in birds, and members of the ornithological fraternity were always welcome in their home. Pleasant indeed are the recollections by those of us who were so fortunate as to enjoy the hospitality of the Allert home while on week-end visits and excursions in the scenic McGregor region. It may be truly said of Mrs. Allert that her friends were numbered only by her acquaintances. We feel keenly the loss occasioned by her passing.

* * * * *

Bernard John Horchem was born at Dubuque, Iowa, December 4, 1866, and died at Vera Cruz, Mexico, July 23, 1932. He became a member of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union in 1930. Much of Mr. Horchem's adult life was spent as a teacher in the Iowa schools; he taught two years in Delaware County, two years in Dyersville, about 30 years in Dubuque, and was superintendent of the Dubuque County schools for four years. He served for 12 consecutive years as an Iowa legislator, first as representative and later as senator. He was much interested in wild life and bird studies, hence his affiliation with our organization.

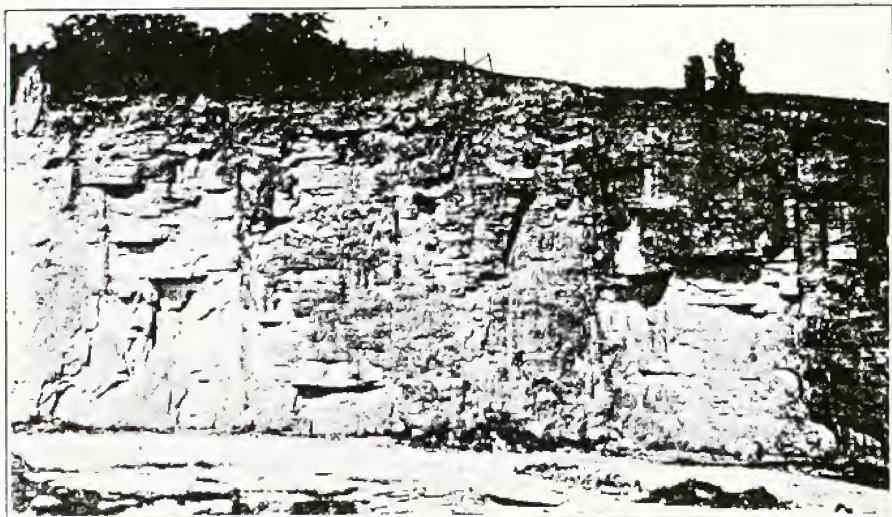
GENERAL NOTES

Naturalization of the Rock Dove in Iowa.—Since the Rock Dove, or the common pigeon of our dooryards and barns, has passed the "probationary" period and has at last been accepted in full standing in the recently published A. O. U. "Check-list," it may be well to record an instance or two of its occurrence in Iowa under reasonably natural conditions.

Along about 1868, a man named James A. Green became interested in the outcropping limestone rock a few miles north of Anamosa in Jones County, Iowa. He conceived the idea of quarrying this rock and using it commercially; in the years which followed vast amounts were quarried and shipped for use as building stone. In the eighties Green made use of the stone in the building of a village which is known as Stone City and which was last summer given much advertising and prominence throughout eastern Iowa when some of the deserted stone buildings were taken over as an artists' colony. The village had for a great many years been practically abandoned, except for the occupancy of some of the smaller houses.

Accompanied by our Editor, Fred J. Pierce and family, I visited this place on September 22, 1932. While the primary object of our visit was the satisfying of some curiosity regarding Stone City, our attention as we entered the town was drawn to the old quarry itself. A large flock of doves were flying about the face of the rock, so we stopped to investigate. We estimated the flock to contain about 50 birds, although back in the recesses of rock that were doubtless deepened by erosion, I believe there were others. In this environment they were indeed *rock* doves and might be considered to be living in a natural state. It would be interesting to study this situation in the nesting season to find out if nests are constructed differently from those of doves living either in captivity or in a domestic state and to discover any possible variation in the care of the young.

Since 1917 I have known, also, of the naturalization of this dove along the palisades of the Iowa River at Iowa Falls. Besides being present in great numbers along the river itself and within the city limits, quite a number use the jagged projections and crevices of a deep ravine just behind the Illinois Central depot. Trees grow up from the bottom of the ravine so that their top branches are about on a level with the rocks. The pigeons use the tops of these trees as perches as naturally as any of our arboreal birds, and it was this habit that originally attracted my attention to them.—CHAS. J. SPIKER, Ypsilanti, Michigan.



HOME OF THE ROCK DOVES AT STONE CITY
Photographed by Chas. J. Spiker.

A Christmas Census from Tama County.—A list of 17 species observed in a wooded area near a small lake and stream just southwest of the city of Tama. Time in the field, three hours. Belted Kingfisher, 1; Flicker, 1; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 4; Downy Woodpecker, 6; Blue Jay, 6; Crow, 3; Black-capped Chickadee, 18; Tufted Titmouse, 4; White-breasted Nuthatch, 10; Brown Creeper, 3; Cedar Waxwing, 6; Starling, 3; Cardinal, 8; Goldfinch, 4; Slate-colored Junco, 16; Tree Sparrow, 20. Two hawks were seen but not positively identified; they were possibly the Sparrow and Red-shouldered Hawks.—MR. AND MRS. W. G. MACMARTIN, Tama, Iowa, December 26, 1932.

A Report on a Revised "Birds of Iowa."—At the 1932 annual meeting of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union, in Des Moines, a paper of mine was read outlining the proposed plan for a revised list of Iowa birds. Such a paper is now being prepared for use as a thesis at the State University of Iowa, and it will probably be published through the Natural History Series of the University. In securing information for this list practically all of the collections of birds containing Iowa specimens have been examined. My records show that about 50 species of birds, reported at one time or another as appearing in Iowa, cannot now be substantiated by the finding of a preserved specimen with data. There is a growing feeling that no species may be admitted or retained on a state list unless the evidence of its occurrence is beyond any reasonable doubt.

A number of these birds unquestionably have occurred in Iowa, and while specimens are desirable, the certainty of identification is sufficiently proved as to admit them to the list. The following birds have been recorded as occurring in Iowa. Do you know of any authentic specimens or additional sight records? Lark Bunting, Lazuli Bunting, Shufeldt's Junco (including Montana Junco), Western Blue Grosbeak, Brewer's Blackbird, Hooded Warbler, Eastern Mockingbird, Red-shafted Flicker, Lewis's Woodpecker, Louisiana Paroquet, Western Burrowing Owl, Black-necked Stilt, Wood Ibis, Little Blue Heron, Snowy Egret, Cinnamon Teal, and Western Grebe.

A number of species have been recorded for Iowa based on the actual taking of the bird, but the specimen was either not saved or has since become lost. In the case of a rare species such records necessarily must receive evaluation over and above those based on field observations alone. Such are: McCown's Longspur, Gray-crowned Rosy Finch, Sprague's Pipit, Common Rock Wren, American Raven, Great Gray Owl, Hudsonian Curlew, Black Rail, Harris's Hawk, Mexican Goshawk, American Scoter, Harlequin Duck, Man-o'-war-bird, Anhinga, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker, Nuttall's Poor-will, Say's Phoebe, and Sycamore Warbler.

Several sight records of birds out of their normal range, or of species difficult to distinguish in the field, may not be included in the new list unless further evidence is found. They are: Baird's Sparrow, Northern Prairie Warbler, Purple Gallinule, Fulvus Tree Duck, Barrow's Golden-eye, Richardson's Owl, and Hawk Owl.

A few species have been reported which seem quite likely to have been the result of mistaken identity, or, in the case of the Scaled Quail, to have been the recapture of an escaped captive bird. These are: Eastern Glossy Ibis, Scaled Quail, Chestnut-backed Bluebird, Eastern Ground Dove, Bullock's Oriole, Laughing Gull, Brant, and Vermillion Flycatcher. And some species are to be considered as of an extra-limital nature, having been reported or captured within a short distance of the state: Bachman's Sparrow, Black-headed Grosbeak, Western Tanager, Townsend's Solitaire, Swainson's Warbler, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Red Phalarope, and Ancient Murrelet.

As the present ranges of some of the subspecies have been considerably changed, several birds included in Anderson's list will be removed and at least 10 new forms for the state will be added.—PHILIP A. DU MONT, Museum of Natural History, University of Iowa.

Publications on Iowa Ornithology during 1932.—(Not including those in 'Iowa Bird Life'.)

Bird-Lore. Christmas bird censuses from Iowa, XXXIV, pp. 66-68 (reviewed in Iowa Bird Life, II, p. 10).

Breitenbach, E. L. Woodcocks and Wood Ducks in Washington County, Iowa; Wils. Bull., XLIV, pp. 181-182.

DuMont, Philip A. Notes from Central Iowa; Wils. Bull., XLIV, pp. 170-177. Some Birds in a Des Moines Collection; *ibid.*, pp. 236-237.

Errington, Paul L. Studies on the Behavior of the Great Horned Owl; Wils. Bull., XLIV, p. 216.

Foster, Frank B. Returns from Banded Mallards; Auk, XLIX, p. 216.

Grange, Wallace B. A Large Flock of Wood Ibises in Harrison County, Iowa; Wils. Bull., XLIV, p. 43.

Leopold, Aldo. A Flight of Franklin's Gull in Northwestern Iowa; Wils. Bull., XLIV, p. 116.

McNeley, Glen. A Cardinal Caller; Bird-Lore, XXXIV, pp. 393-394.

Mueller, C. F. Egrets in Iowa; Bird-Lore, XXXIV, p. 332.

Nauman, E. D. The Red-headed Woodpecker as a Mouser; Wils.

- Bull., XLIV, p. 44. Roasted Eggs; Palimpsest, XIII, pp. 198-201.
 Pellett, Frank C. White-breasted Nuthatches Occupy a Nest Box; Wils. Bull., XLIV, pp. 43-44.
 Roberts, F. L. R. Two Iowa Duck Records; Wils. Bull., XLIV, pp. 180.
 Sherman, Althea R. Downy's Mate or Daughter?; Bird-Lore, XXXIV, pp. 202-203. Red-winged Blackbirds Nesting in Tree-tops near Top of Hill; Auk, XLIX, p. 358.
 Stephens, T. C. Brunnich's Murre in Iowa; Wils. Bull., XLIV, p. 239.
 Swenk, Myron H. The Swallow-tailed Kite in Pottawattamie County, Iowa; Wils. Bull., XLIV, p. 182.
 Youngworth, Wm. Field Notes from Sioux City, Iowa; Auk, XLIX, p. 494.

A Wood Pewee's Nest.—One day in June, 1929, my friend, John B. Slate, invited me to take a ride with him to his cabin on the banks of the Skunk River near Rubio, about 25 miles southeast of Sigourney. About a quarter-mile from the cabin, along the timber road, we noticed several Wood Pewees flitting about. Never having found a nest of this species, we thought it would add considerably to our fund of bird-lore if we could locate one. After quietly walking back and forth along this road for awhile, we noticed in an open space, where there were no low-hanging branches or underbrush, a tall ash tree leaning slightly over the road and having a stub of a limb some four or five feet long and about five inches in diameter projecting out over the center of the road. The stub was dead and the bark had fallen off.

The stub was exactly the color of the back of the pewee. And here, about three feet from the trunk of the tree and 25 feet from the ground, was located one of the delicate little nests of the Wood Pewee. We located it by the flight of the parent birds, which were carrying food to their young. As far as our glasses revealed, the nest was quite shallow and inconspicuous. We did not have a set of climbers, so could not get up to the nest to make closer observations.

Here appeared to be a conundrum, and we did not solve it. How could a helpless and timid little bird like the Wood Pewee raise a brood of babies in such a location? We know that one of the most dangerous foes of all smaller birds is the Cooper's Hawk; and it has the habit of darting about the woods on swift and silent wings, alighting occasionally to make observations in just such places as the pewee had chosen for its nest. The Sharp-shinned Hawk and several species of owls all prowl about the woods, and the only defense the little pewee has is "protective coloration." It seems that but few young birds would survive in so prominent a nesting site.—E. D. NAUMAN, Sigourney, Iowa.

Notes from Boone, Iowa.—A lone Bronzed Grackle is spending the winter with us. He has been here since early October and spends most of his time in our back yard, eating cracked corn and crumbs from the ground and suet from our rack in the tree. We have ear-corn set on some spikes, but we have never seen him eat from the ears. He bathed daily until the water froze in our pool. When not eating he often sits in the apple tree near the suet, much to the dismay of a Downy Woodpecker, or walks around and around the empty pool. He may be one of the black rascals that stole so many of our goldfish last summer. Shortly after sundown the grackle flies off in the direction of the cemetery, where he may spend the night in one of the evergreens.

Early in October I flushed a Woodcock from the dried leaves in our

rose garden. I had a good view of the bird and distinctly saw the long bill, eyes set near the top of the rather flat head, stocky body with decided stripes down the back, and stubby tail. All last summer we trailed a pair of Woodcocks at the Ledges State Park. Mr. Henning, the custodian, told us they were there, but we were only rewarded by having two brief glimpses of them.

On January 8, we saw a Flicker on the ground in our back yard, the second record for the Flicker in winter that we have had here.

Mr. Buzby is a railway engineer. Not long ago his fireman reported finding a Quail in the "gangway" of the engine cab. In winter heavy canvas curtains are hung up in the gangway to keep out the cold and snow. Near Slater, Iowa, a Quail was found under this canvas. When they stopped at an elevator the bird was tossed into the air, and it flew away evidently unhurt. Engineer C. E. Sargent recalls an incident of several summers ago, when he was running a fast night passenger train. They were passing a small lake near Omaha. He saw a bird fly into the gleam of the headlight, and the light went out instantly. He set the brakes and came to a full stop, while the fireman ran ahead to investigate. He found the headlight lens broken and a Screech Owl's body wedged into the light. The bird was still clutching a dead fish in its claws.—MRS. WILLIAM BUZBY, Boone, Iowa, January 9, 1933.

Organized Crow Shoots. This will be the subject for the round-table discussion at the coming Annual Convention. If you cannot attend this convention, send in a letter to Doctor Roberts to be read as part of the round-table discussion. You are at liberty to make comments either for or against this type of project as practiced by sportsmen's clubs. We would be particularly interested in any personal observations you have made as to the harm or good accomplished. May we suggest that you also write to The Emergency Conservation Committee, 113 East 72nd St., New York City, for their free leaflet on this subject.—DR. F. L. R. ROBERTS, Iowa City.

English Sparrows at Iowa City. The so-called English Sparrows did not extend their range over the middle west directly from the importation to New York City. Dr. Barrows in his book devoted to this bird and Dr. T. S. Roberts in his "Birds of Minnesota" mention several implantations in the Mississippi valley states. In a conversation recently, Dr. B. Shimek gave me the following information. Mr. Marquardt, an Iowa City jeweler, returned from Switzerland about 1878. He brought with him two pairs of English Sparrows and released them in Iowa City. One pair nested on the building adjoining the Berkeley Hotel, which was occupied by the Carson Implement Company. The other pair, much to Mr. Marquardt's delight, nested on his jewelry store. These birds were probably the progenitors of many of those now in Iowa.—DR. F. L. R. ROBERTS, Iowa City, Iowa.

THE ANNUAL CONVENTION

Our Annual Convention this year will be held at Fairfield, Friday and Saturday, May fifth and sixth. While the meetings have not been definitely planned, they will be substantially the same as in former years. Detailed programs will be mailed later to all members of the Union.

Registration will begin at 8:30 Friday morning. The meeting will begin at 9:00, as many important and interesting talks and papers are planned. Just before adjournment of the morning session, at 11:30, announcement will be made of the personnel of committees.

Accommodations are being planned so that those who wish to may eat lunch together at the Leggett Hotel. The program after lunch will be

a continuation of papers. There will also be a round-table. This has proven to be a very popular feature of the last two meetings. The subject this year will be "Organized Crow Shoots." We hope all those attending will take part in this discussion. If you cannot attend, send a letter to the president. These letters will be read at the time of the round-table. The business meeting will be from 3 to 5 P. M.

A banquet will be served in the early evening after which there will be a short program of music and talks. The speaker of the evening has not yet been chosen. It has been customary to have some outstanding lecture, often illustrated by motion pictures.

Saturday morning will be devoted to a field trip. The first group will leave at 5 A. M. Other groups will leave later. Cars will be available to take all who wish to go. We are almost sure to have a very successful field trip as this is good bird territory. This will be a good opportunity especially for those who live farther west and north to compare the bird fauna with that of their own locality and possibly add some new species to their life lists.

At noon the various groups will reassemble at Lacey-Keosauqua State Park for lunch and the compilation of a composite list for the day. The meeting is officially disbanded after this meeting but many will wish to linger to renew old friendships and cement new ones, or to explore the park.

Fairfield has a large, well mounted collection of birds which those attending the convention are particularly invited to inspect. This collection was recently reclassified and new labels placed by Hon. J. Wilbur Dole and is now in fine shape.

The officers of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union and our hosts, the members of the Fairfield Bird Club warmly invite you to be present at this important convention. We know you will enjoy and benefit from these two days of play with friends who take pleasure in the same things you do.—DOC ROBERTS, PRESIDENT.

* * * * *

Dr. Guy C. Rich of Hollywood, California, was a member of the old Iowa Ornithological Association and was very active in bird work many years ago when he lived at Sioux City, Iowa. He makes the following interesting comment:

"As an old timer and one who is now permanently out of it, I am impressed that there is more interest in the study and preservation of birds than there was when I was a boy. Note the many state and federal laws. Note the growth of the Audubon Society. Note the many popular articles that appear in the magazines. Note the many forest preserves, private and public parks, and the growth of sanctuaries. But I am inclined to think that the total population of birds in this country is less than it was 50 years ago. The man with the shotgun is the reason. The intense study of how to protect and preserve our birds will accomplish nothing unless the man with the gun is controlled. The unfortunate thing is, we plan and attempt things that are never finished. Many species so lack adaptability to adjust themselves to changes that extinction seems certain."

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One of our generous members, whose name is being withheld by special request, has contributed \$10 to our halftone fund. This will give us four halftone cuts for 1933, adding very materially to the interest and attractiveness of our magazine.

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New Iowa members of the Union are: Mrs. J. D. Parker, Fayette; Vance Allyn, Radcliffe; Henry Birkeland, Nevada; Miss Frances B. Mason, Boone; Dr. Harry B. Knight, Ames.

New subscribers are: George Seth Guion, New Orleans, La.; Hollis T. Ross, Lewisburg, Pa.; Ralph Ellis, Jr., Berkeley, Calif.

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